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### **What is CIITS?**

CIITS stands for the Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System and is a searchable database of academic standards, instructional resources and supports in a technology platform. This tool will provide a new, 21st- experience for teachers and they plan and design instruction for continuous improvement. The vision is for CIITS to become a “one-stop shop” for everything a teacher needs for highly-effective teaching and learning in the classroom.

### **How do I access CIITS?**

CIITS is accessible to all Kentucky public school educators from anywhere, 24 hours a day, seven days a week through any Internet-connected computer equipped with a modern browser.

You may login to CIITS by going to: <https://ciits.kyschools.us> and entering your district, CIITS username and password.

NOTE: As of November 8, 2011, the CIITS system implemented identity management; individual logins are required so that student information remains secure and is accessible to only the appropriate personnel. The “ciitsuser” and “ciits2012” login credentials will no longer work.

### **What will I find in CIITS?**

In CIITS, teachers are able access the [Kentucky Core Academic Standards](#) in [English/language arts](#) and [mathematics](#), the corresponding deconstructed standards/learning targets, [Program of Studies](#), [Core Content for Assessment 4.1](#) and directly linked, aligned, high-quality, multi-media instructional resources from [KET EncycloMedia: Discovery Education](#) and [SAS Curriculum Pathways](#). These classroom materials are designed to engage students in learning and reinforce the standards being taught.

The system also contains [Kentucky Standard for World Language Proficiency](#), [Early Childhood Standards](#), [Kentucky Technology Standards](#), [ISTE National Educational Technology Standards](#) and [AASL Library Standards](#).

CIITS version 2 (November 2011) contains a lesson planning tool and scheduler to help teachers manage standards-based instruction in their classrooms. Version 2 also includes student demographic information (secured by individual login credentials and permissions)

### **How does CIITS differ from Infinite Campus?**

In order for CIITS to operate to its fullest capacity, Kentucky must have a robust student information system. Infinite Campus serves this function and will feed into CIITS to provide the student-level data necessary for instructional improvement. Our goal is single data entry of the information shared between the two systems. Linking KDE’s data platforms ensures the state benefits from the functionality in each technology system.

### **How do I navigate within CIITS?**

The system is very user-friendly. It is broken into modules which are listed in the blue ribbon across the top of the page. By scrolling over the module name you will see various tabs with a brief description that informs the user what is available under that tab. NOTE: with only basic student demographic data in the system, the functionality under some of the tabs will be limited until assessment data is included in the system at a later date.

On the CIITS homepage you will find various webparts that include My Classroom where you can access class sections and student rosters, the lesson planner tool and student groups you may have created.

The Find Standards and Materials area will allow you to search for standards or materials by subject or grade. Standards results may be further filtered by strand (English/language arts), domain (mathematics). Materials search results may be filtered by resource format under the Advance Search drop down menu on the left side of the page.

Also on the CIITS Homepage you will find an area with CIITS Training and Support Materials:

- A Quick-Start Sheet gives you a brief overview of some of the features available in CIITS version .

- A more detailed User Guide includes a step-by-step procedure for navigating in CIITS and includes screen shots for each step. The User Guide also includes a section on where to turn for help.
- Tutorial videos on *Searching for Standards and Materials*, *Creating a Lesson and Using the Planner*, and *Accessing Student Roster and Demographic Information* in CIITS is also available under support materials that you can link to from the CIITS homepage.
- Support Materials include a Technical Guide that spells out the minimum requirements for various computer operating systems and Web browsers that are needed to navigate CIITS and access Discovery Education and SAS Curriculum Pathways materials.

You may return to the CIITS homepage at any time by clicking on the red schoolhouse icon.



**I notice a number in parentheses on the Materials and Standards tabs on some pages. These numbers change from page to page. What do these numbers indicate?**

The number in parentheses on the tab represent the number of clickable areas within that part of the system (based on what level of the standards you are in) and is not reflective of the actual number of standards or materials per content area.

It is important to keep in mind that in the *Common Core State Standards* there are multiple levels in the standards within each content area:

- English/language arts: College and Career Readiness Anchor Standard>Strand> grade-level standard and number or letter (level)where appropriate
- Mathematics: Standards for Mathematical Practice>Standards for Mathematical Content> Domain> Cluster>grade-level standard and number or letter (level) where appropriate

Following an initial search by subject and grade level, users can find a drop down menu on the left side of the page if they would like to refine their search using one of these additional parameters.

**How do I access the Deconstructed Standards?**

For nearly a year, the Kentucky Content Leadership Networks worked to deconstruct or break down the Common Core Standards in [English/language arts](#) and [mathematics](#) into specific student learning targets. In CIITS, the deconstructed standards are loaded as resources tied to a particular standard. You may access the deconstructed standards two ways:

- By drilling down through the Standard, Strand (E/LA) or Domain (mathematics) or grade level standard. Click on the number in the resources column to show a list of resources associated with that standard. The Deconstructed Standard will appear at the top of the list and is indicated with an asterisk.
- By searching materials by subject and grade level on the homepage. All associated Deconstructed Standards will appear at the top of the list of instructional resources and are indicated with an asterisk.

Click on the title of the Deconstructed Standard and a new window will open up. Under Content, click on the PDF link to see the deconstructed standard and learning targets in the format established by Kentucky's Content Leadership Networks.

#### **How can I tell exactly what an instructional resource entails?**

Once you click on the title of a resource, you can see information about the resource creator, publisher, format, a brief description and a list of all the standards it aligns with. Under the Content section you will also see a link to a URL that will take you directly to the resource (once you login to the [KET EncycloMedia](#): Discovery Education website or [SAS Curriculum Pathways](#) website) where you can preview the material and decide whether you would like to use it.

#### **I notice a link for “My Materials” and “Recommend Materials.” What are these for?**

Clicking on the “Save to My Materials” link will allow users to save resources to a bank called My Materials. This is a personal materials bank where they can save and store materials indefinitely.

Currently users can recommend a material by clicking on the “Be the first to recommend” link and then access a list of suggested materials for their classes.

#### **What do I need to access the SAS Curriculum Pathways instructional resources?**

You will need a free SAS account to access the SAS instructional materials in CIITS.

You can sign up by going to the [Kentucky SAS Curriculum Pathways web portal](#) and filling out the requested information.


Students in grades 6-12 and parents can also access SAS materials outside of CIITS. They will need a the student user name for their school which they can find by going to the [SAS Curriculum Pathways subscription webpage](#), clicking the Subscribe Now button, selecting the parent/student option from the pull-down menu and entering the school name and state. PLEASE DO NOT SHARE TEACHER LOGINS WITH STUDENTS.

#### **What do I need to access the KET EncycloMedia: Discovery Education instructional resources?**

To access KET EncycloMedia: Discovery Education instructional resources, users will need a KET EncycloMedia: Discovery Education account. If a user already has a KET EncycloMedia account, a new account is not necessary.

If users do not have an account with KET EncycloMedia: Discovery Education, they will be required to create one. To create a new account, users need to contact their school/district KET EncycloMedia: Discovery Education administrator, who can provide them a passcode, or they can contact their regional [KET Education Consultant](#). Once users create their accounts, they will be prompted for their username and password when they attempt to access KET EncycloMedia: Discovery Education materials.

#### **How can I save KET EncycloMedia: Discovery Education resources for use in my classroom?**

Teachers may access KET EncycloMedia: Discovery Education resources through live streaming via the Internet or by downloading the materials to their local machine or network folders. To download a resources, right-click on the download icon  (or control-click if using a Mac) and choose “Save Target As....”

**How is CIITS different from KET's EncycloMedia?**

KET EncycloMedia is a portal for accessing high-quality digital resources from several online instructional repositories including Discovery Education. Currently, CIITS provides an alternative pathway for accessing Discovery Education resources. Eventually, however, CIITS will also contain student level data that will allow teachers to correlate student needs with available resources and differentiate instruction more easily. This feature will make CIITS a tool for continuous instructional improvement.

KET partnered with the Kentucky Department of Education to make KET EncycloMedia: Discovery Education resources available through both CIITS and KET EncycloMedia, though the deconstructed standards/learning targets appear only in CIITS.

Through the CIITS interface with KET EncycloMedia: Discovery Education website, you may access all of Discovery Education's downloadable/streamable videos, still photos, clip art, quizzes, lesson plans, and many other related resources in ALL content areas, all aligned to Kentucky academic standards and at no charge to schools or districts.

Additional vendor materials will be available in future phases.

**What's ahead for CIITS?**

As a 21st-century technology platform designed to support instructional improvement, CIITS will be a continuously evolving .

Later this school year, teachers will be able to access a test item bank with more than 11,000 items in order to create tests based on particular standards and administer assessments *for* learning. This feature will not only allow teachers to quickly know how individual students are progressing toward mastery on a particular standard or concept, but also to see where learning gaps exist so that they can more easily design instructional experiences to meet individual student needs and adjust their instruction in support of learning – the hallmarks of formative assessment.

Plans call for benchmark assessment data to be loaded into CIITS later this school year. PLAN, EXPLORE, ACT and summative End-of-Course and K-PREP test data will be uploaded into the system as it is available.

Later phases of the project call for the addition of a module to support teacher and leader effectiveness and professional development (pending funding).

Each step along the way, we anticipate the system will be more interactive and helpful to you as you plan your lessons and design instructional experiences for your students. We'll also be providing professional development to be sure you know how to utilize CIITS to the fullest extent.

**How much does CIITS cost?**

CIITS is provided at no cost to all Kentucky public school teachers and educators.